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A Passage From The Holy Quran

“And set forth to them the parable of two men: one of them We provided with two gardens of grapes, and surrounded them with date-palms, and between the two We placed corn-fields.

“Each of the gardens yielded its fruit in abundance, and failed not the least therein. And in between the two We caused a stream to flow.

“And he had fruit in abundance. And he said to his companion, arguing boastfully with him, ‘I am richer than thou in wealth and stronger in respect of men.’

“And he entered his garden while he was wronging his soul. He said, ‘I do not think this will ever perish;

“And I do not think the Hour will ever come. And even if I am ever brought back to my Lord, I shall, surely, find a better resort than this.’

“His companion said to him, while he was arguing with him, ‘Dost thou disbelieve in Him Who cre-

ated thee from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then fashioned thee into a perfect man?

"But as for me, I believe that Allah alone is my Lord, and I will not associate anyone with my Lord.

"And why didst thou not say when thou didst enter thy garden: 'Only that which Allah wills comes to pass. There is no power save in Allah?' if thou seest me as less than thee in riches and offspring.

"Perhaps my Lord will give me something better than thy garden, and will send on it (thy garden) a thunderbolt from heaven so that it will become a bare slippery ground.

"Or its water will become sunk in the earth so that thou wilt not be able to find it.'

"And his fruit was actually destroyed, and he began to wring his hands for what he had spent on it, and it had all fallen down on its trellises. And he said, 'Would that I had not associated anyone with my Lord!'

"And he had no party to help him against Allah, nor was he able to defend himself.

"In such a case protection comes only from Allah, the True. He is the Best in respect of reward, and the Best in respect of consequence."

ISLAMIC VALUES IN EDUCATION

from an address by

SIR MUHAMMAD ZAFARULLAH KHAN

at the Myrin Institute at Adelphi College
Garden City, N. Y.

Islam, the faith promulgated thirteen centuries ago by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and the blessings of God be on him, today affects a broad geographic area of either predominantly Islamic nations, or states having a sizable Muslim minority. By and large, this covers an area from Morocco to China, touching the Sudan, Eritrea, Somaliland and large portions of East Africa in the South; Greece, Turkey and parts of the USSR in the North; and extends across Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Iraq, and thence to Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Malaya, Indonesia and China. In this belt and in adjacent areas a considerable part of the earth's population, possibly between one-fifth and one-third of the human race, is either Muslim or strongly influenced by Islamic values.

For the Muslim world, the last three or four centuries have been a period of decline in all spheres of life, not least in the field of education. Our discussion will, therefore, not

deal with the problems and difficulties that beset the educational systems and institutions of the various Islamic nations but will rather concentrate on the ideals which Islam has set for education, ideals to which today's Muslim world strives to return. We shall discuss these ideals as they are recorded in the Holy Quran, the book that literally millions of men know from beginning to end.

The Holy Quran says God created man so that he might become His image. To further evolution, to help make man a true manifestation of the Divine, is the ideal task of education.

The first principle of Islamic educational philosophy states that God is the Source of all knowledge and of all wisdom; that this Source encompasses everything that pertains to mankind and that it is adequate in every respect.

The second principle states that man is fully capable of receiving from this Source; that mankind may be likened to a vessel that seeks to contain this Source. The capacity of this vessel has no limit.

The Holy Quran says:

"We have created man with highest capacities....."

The third principle is that of guidance: (1) Man has been endowed with intelligence, with the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, in order that he may be guided on the highways of knowledge; and that (2) guidance has been provided for every human being.

The Holy Quran is the contemporary record of the revelations of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and the blessings of God be on him, who himself was illiterate. He was born in an age when the whole world had sunk into darkness and indeed Arabia surpassed the rest of the world in ignorance and evil-doing. Yet the Holy Prophet's very first rev-

elation was an admonition of one single word, the opening word of the Quran: "Read!" Read, O man, the great book of nature, ever open before your eyes. God has endowed you with intellect, with reason, with reflection, in order that you may use your faculties in research through the realms of nature. In the creation of the heavens and the earth, in the alteration of day and night, in every manifestation of nature there are forever new secrets to be read and deciphered by men of wisdom.

Those who ponder over Rahman--that attribute of God which provides for man's needs before they arise--those who reflect while standing, sitting or lying down, they will reach the point of realizing: Thou hast not created all this in vain! There is purpose and meaning in all existence, in life and death. It is the learned who fear God most: man's relationship with the Divine depends upon the development of his intellect.

Much as knowledge enhances virtue, virtue in turn is the very prerequisite of wisdom. Islam insists on purity of life for the scholar; it emphasizes that none but the righteous will penetrate into the true meaning of the Holy Quran. The Lord does not bestow His light on those who do not heed Him.

When the Holy Prophet's nephew, Hazrat Ali, complained to a friend about the weakness of his memory, he was advised to search first for shortcomings in conduct or flaws in character: he should remedy these in order to improve his intellectual capacities.

Islam is not a religion in the narrow sense in which the concept of religion is often interpreted. Islam is a way of life, and it covers all aspects of life. For Islam there has never been a barrier between spirituality and science, or between religion and education.

For the Muslim child, religious training begins at the very moment of his birth. When a child is born to a Muslim, the first sound he hears is a call to prayer, whispered into his ears by a person chosen for the child's spiritual guidance: "Come to prayer! Come to salvation! God is above all. I bear witness that there is no god but One, that Muhammed is His Prophet, and that there is salvation through worship."

From this moment on, throughout life, admonitions to piety and to learning are constantly repeated. This differs markedly from certain modern doctrines which advocate leaving the child without religious instruction until he has reached the age of reason. Islamic education warns against leaving a vacuum to be filled by whatever influences reach it first.

Throughout life, the Muslim is admonished that the pursuit of knowledge is obligatory. The Holy Quran commands: Occupy yourselves with knowledge from the cradle to the grave. No division between religion and science can ever arise on such a basis. Thus it was but natural that the Mosque became the very center of Islamic education and cultural life, the focal point of Muslim society.

This unique impetus which learning received from the religion, Islam, has remarkable consequences: wherever Islam took hold, the darkness of ignorance gave way to the bright light of knowledge within less than a century--overnight as it were. A vital release of energy and initiative, a flowering of genius in all aspects of learning fostered and enriched mathematics, astronomy, physics, medicine, history, philosophy. Systematic translations from all the languages of antiquity conveyed to the Muslim scholar the salvaged knowledge of Egypt, Greece and Rome as a basis on which to build. Schools, academies, institutions, libraries, sprang

up from land to land. City after city became world famous as a center of learning: Damascus, Cairo, Khairaiwan, Bagdad, Granada, Seville, are but a few of the names that come to mind. Today's world looks with wonder upon that Golden Age of Knowledge that blossomed while the rest of the world went through its darkest epoch.

Where did all this spring from? The source of this wonderful regeneration was the impetus of the Holy Quran--the Guidance of God.

History shows how other religious systems often stood in the way of the propagation and extension of knowledge. Islam promoted and fostered it: This is the true significance of Islamic values in the realm of intellectual progress and of education.

ISLAM:

DEMOCRACY'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

by MR. JOHN T. WOOD

Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing today throughout the world an unprecedented upsurge of national self-expression by the weaker and smaller nations never before manifested as the recorded histories of all civilizations will testify.

If we prostitute our national prestige and pander to the predatory ambitions of nations seeking to sanctify their aggression by the pious use of power, we shall also reap the penalty which finally rewards traitors to their trust. That is the irrevocable law of retributive justice. There is escape neither for nations nor individuals.

The Muslims scratch their soil and they find it rich beyond measure with God-given natural resources. They regard these natural resources as their national heritage. They feel that they are entitled to something more than the horse, the goat, and sometimes the gun their alien oppressors permit them as the substitute for their God-given rights.

In the fulfillment of their historic mission they cannot understand why it is considered wrong to revolt against the foreign oppression which enslaves them and exploits their natural resources. In the well-known words of the illustrious Colonel Lawrence of Arabia, "there is a revolt in the desert."

Alas, he omitted the nub, "against oppression."

UNFAIR STANDARDS

The time has long since passed into history when such unfair standards could prevail anywhere in the world. These recent victims of political and economic servitude to alien oppressors now seek their inalienable God-given rights and their rightful place in the family of the peace-loving nations.

The peoples of the Near East, Middle East and the Far East are Muslims, with few exceptions. This also applies to North Africa. "Islam" is the "official" name for the religious belief practiced by Muslims. There are approximately 400,000,000 Muslims in the areas I have just mentioned including the Philippines. "They were all our friends."

The world's 400,000,000 Muslims are a deeply religious people. Muslims observe their religion more seriously than do most nominal Christians. Few Christians get down on their knees three times daily for devout prayer. The word "Islam" itself may be literally interpreted, "Thy will be done." Muslims are capable of the most intense religio-patriotic fervor. Witness Islam becoming the greatest empire in world history within the first hundred years after the death of the founder of their faith in the Seventh Century A. D. "Islam is today a greater spiritual force than ever."

The Soviet Union did not dare to attempt an invasion of the Near East recently when the time seemed so opportune because the Soviet Union had never been able to organize effective branches of the Communist Party in Muslim areas. Where Islam flourishes the soil is not fertile for atheism. "In the presence of Islam, Communism retreats.!"

COMMUNISING EFFORTS

The communising efforts of the Soviet Union's agents in Muslim areas had never reached the point where internal revolt and the creation of puppet satellite governments were at all possible. Communising efforts of the Soviet Union have apparently been outstandingly successful only in Christian countries with the exception of China, and that sell-out was plotted by those who call themselves Christians, "but who are not." Where Islam thrives, atheism dies. "Islam is the invincible, yet invisible foe of Communism."

Why have the communising efforts of the Soviet Union succeeded amongst Poles, Czechoslovaks, Hungarians, and Bulgarians, yet failed among the Muslims? The answer can be stated in one word "Islam." The believers in Islam stand like a wall of stone against the onrushing flood of that Communist-bred atheism which is sweeping over the world and already has under its rule almost one-half the world's population and one-half the total land area of this world.

It is nothing short of a spiritual paradox that the Christian nations of the world should owe such a debt of gratitude to the believers in Islam in the present international "knock-down and drag-out" state of affairs. No other conclusion can be reached if one wishes to be honest with one's self. Islam appears to be Christianity's "first line of defense" against this world-wide creeping conquest of atheism.

The leaders of the Communist-bred atheist creeping conquest of the world get a shiver down their spines at the thought of collaboration, between the 400, 000, 000 Christians in the free world and the 400, 000, 000 Muslims to resist their seemingly certain victory for atheism. Collaboration by the

400,000,000 Christians of the free world and the 400,000,000 Muslims could very well mean disintegration and defeat for Communism's program for their domination of the world.

The Communist-bred forces of atheism could never survive a real coalition between the two great religious groups of the world today. The combined resistance of the 800,000,000 deeply religious peoples of the Christian and Muslim worlds will certainly triumph over the assault of the 100,000,000 Communist-bred atheists against that bastion of the inalienable right of the individual to freely worship God according to one's own conscience without interference.

The believers in Islam do not fear death in battle for a righteous cause. Death in battle is reputed to transport a believer in Islam immediately into the realm of the blessed. In spite of propaganda to the contrary Americans must learn that through the ages Muslims have earned the reputation of being completely reliable and absolutely faithful allies in peace as well as in war. Islam teaches Muslims to be hospitable to strangers and they practice this inspired attitude towards all. Islam, like true Christianity is a living manifestation of a valid "brotherhood of man" in action.

There exists a superlative degree of religious harmony among all Muslims. To a greater extent than generally realized Muslims are engaged to pastoral pursuits. Whether by choice or necessity, Muslims have remained close to "Mother Earth." In their soil they see their security, their salvation and their survival. "Their land is their hope."

HISTORIC TRUTH

Likewise, a little-known fact to Americans is the historic truth that the ancient ancestors of the Muslims of today, as

we know them, were world leaders in architecture, astronomy, geography, mathematics, medicine, poetry, and other leading branches of the sciences and arts at the time when Europeans were still living in mud hovels like the barbarians they were. The system of numerals in use today throughout the civilized world is a contribution to world culture and progress for which we must acknowledge gratitude to the ancient ancestors of modern Muslims. The land they inhabited was the cradle of our modern civilization.

The 400,000,000 Muslims inhabit the broad stretch of territory extending across North Africa, the Near East, the Middle East, and the Far East from Morocco on the Atlantic to the Philippines in the Pacific. Exclusive of these areas, about 75,000,000 of the 400,000,000 Muslims are integrated population in the Soviet Union, Red China, the Balkans and other areas behind the "Iron Curtain." The 400,000,000 Muslims inhabit every strategic area along the extremely extended "under-belly" of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union has resorted to every conceivable strategy to attract into their orbit the 400,000,000 Muslims along their entire "under-belly." What is taking place at this very hour in Egypt, Iran, Burma, Indio-China, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and the Malay Straits is the result of agitation in these countries by agents of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is fanning the flame of nationalism in these countries to create revolutions which will result in the creation of numerous additional Communist Governments.

STRATEGIC AREAS

The Soviet Union seeks to deprive the Christian world friendship of this great reservoir of manpower, the enormous

reserves of natural resources, and the strategic areas lying along the Soviet Union's "under-belly." They are not exactly fools. This Nation will live to rue the day we permit Soviet Union strategy to convert the believers in Islam from loyal friends into bitter enemies of Christendom. When that becomes an accomplished fact this Nation will drop into the lap of the Soviet Union like a ripe plum. It will be too late to call out the fire engines after the house has burned down "Our common sense should tell us that, should it not?"

The believers in Islam have as yet not lent themselves to sovietisation. The inherently deep and genuine religious fervor of the followers of the Prophet has so far precluded any possibility of the acceptance by them of Communist-bred atheism. They have so far resisted contamination of their political, social, and economic systems with the virus of Communist-incubated atheism with a fortitude worthy of "spiritual Spartans." Islam remains immune to atheism.

Islam has truly set an example which the Christian nations of Europe, and the North and South American continents would do well to follow. "He who knows not the way is a dangerous guide." Let us abandon the insidious leadership of United Nations that international incubator for Communist-bred atheism and follow the example of believers in Islam. "Islam and Christianity have common aims."

Believers in Islam will never willingly consent to the surrender of their inspiring and compelling faith in God to gain the doubtful benefits accruing to the millions who have accepted the spiritual sovereignty of the Communist-bred atheists. The preponderant majority of those who have already surrendered, unfortunately for Christendom, have

been Christians, not Muslims. Take note of that fact please, if you will. Where "ignorance is bliss" in my humble opinion, it is not folly to be wise. To the contrary, it is very necessary to be "wise" to what is going on in the world if humanity is to survive as a society composed of free men.

It is not difficult to understand the confusion which exists today in the minds of Muslims everywhere. These devout aspirants for their liberty and freedom now observe us turning against them, even using United Nations as a bludgeon to beat them into submission. They now see this Nation making common cause with their oppressors and exploiters, within and without United Nations and its numerous agencies, "using words with mortal effect instead of bullets."

ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE

The present hour finds the Muslims entering upon a Twentieth Century Islamic renaissance. The great spiritual forces now reawakened and released will make a great contribution to the congress of mankind. The Islamic world is turning to the Christian world for co-operation and collaboration. They are seeking the friendship and collaboration of the West. They truly trust that it will not be unduly denied. The West will prove itself unworthy of its part in the sacred trusteeship of mankind's spiritual mission if it treats this appeal with indifference. "Or worse still to become accomplices of the oppressors of the Islamic world."

If as a result of the false pride or ignorance we turn from their out-stretched hand we shall live to regret the folly of that act. They may need us now and we may be able to help them. The time may come when we may need them, and they may be able then to help us. Reciprocity is a basis

for human relationships which has been practiced far too little in this world of ours. Reciprocity as the basis for our international relationships has been nearly a mirage.

Christian and Muslim collaboration can stop Communism dead in its tracks. Only then will it deteriorate, disintegrate, and disappear. There is no other defence against the aggression of Communist-bred atheism. It will grow, and grow and grow unless Christian and Muslim collaboration immunizes man's mentality against this malignant disease which now threatens civilization's survival.

The Father in heaven of Islam and Christianity is a God. The forces of righteousness can always count upon His help if they help Him in caring for His children here below. The two great religious groups of the world collaborating in the service of God, will not lack for Divine assistance. God will aid in preserving a climate on this earth which will not preclude nor prohibit worship of Him by those who recognize and accept His spiritual sovereignty.

DUTY OF CHRISTIANS

The Christian churches must invite, not merely await, the collaboration of Islam in this program. The Christian churches must go more than halfway in creating this conference. The Christian churches were guilty of errors of omission through the ages even though they were not guilty of errors of commission. It is their Christian duty to give sympathy and consideration for a conference to plan a program for such collaboration. It calls for top priority by all.

In their all-pervading belief in God the Muslims will join their Christian brothers at a round table to sift the ashes

of civilization in the attempt to find a spark of spiritual dynamism the power of belief must vanquish unbelief. Those now in the service of God must resist the anti-Christ.

If Islam and Christianity do not win, the fate of mankind is sealed. The human race is doomed to face a fate more miserable than my vocabulary can do ample justice.

I cannot speak for Islam. I wish I had that privilege. But I can say a few words for the Christian churches and Christianity. The Christian churches must be made to understand that they have been made the innocent victims of a Communist-bred atheist "conspiracy" to destroy them.

When the debris of Communist-bred atheism has finally been swept into oblivion by the collaboration of Islam and Christianity, world-peace may come to the God-loving people of the human race. This reward justifies our struggle.

The Ahmadiyya Movement In Islam

The world suffers today from maladjustment. The most grievous is the disparity between man's material resources and his spiritual poverty. In recent years the process of the exploitation of the forces of nature has been sharply accelerated but the evolution of man's inner self has not kept pace with material advancement. There has been a steadily increasing divergence.

A living faith is needed to bring about adjustment and co-ordination between all aspects of human activity. The principles upon which the co-ordination must be based and the implementation of which alone human faculties and capacities may be combined in beneficent co-operation are set out in the Holy Quran. The great need of the age is the exposition and interpretation of these principles as applicable to the pattern and problems of human life with which we are faced today. To create confidence and inspire faith, this interpretation must proceed on the basis of Divine revelation. In the absence of such revelation the needed evolution cannot be achieved. Also, mankind must have set before it the example of a life based on these principles and illustrating their beneficent application and operation.

All this had been foreseen and provided for in Islam. We find further confirmation of this in the fact that all great faiths had foretold the advent of a Prophet in this age to fulfil these needs and purposes.

This Prophet appeared at Qadian (India) in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. He was a devout Muslim and a devoted follower of the Holy Prophet of Islam. His mission was to re-establish perfect communion between man and his Maker through a fresh interpretation of the Holy Quran and the example of his own life.

He presented to the world the true meaning and teachings of Islam and invited mankind to establish direct communion with God by conforming their lives to these teachings. The message proclaimed by him is the very Islam itself. It is based wholly and entirely upon the teachings contained in the Holy Quran and illustrated in the life of the Holy Prophet of Islam. The interpretation of Islam is called AHMADIYYAT and the movement initiated by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is known as the AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM.

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